

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 15, 16, and 28 are pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 16 are amended by the present amendment.

Amendments to the claims find support in the application as originally filed, at least at Claim 16. Thus, no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,291,293 to Kapan in view of U.S. Patent 6,396,539 to Heller et al. (herein "Heller"); Claim 16 is indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form; and Claim 28 is allowed.

Initially, Applicant gratefully acknowledges the courtesy of a personal interview with Examiner Tran on January 30, 2007. During the interview, differences between the claimed inventions and references in the Office Action were discussed. Comments discussed during the interview are reiterated below.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of Claim 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kapan and Heller, with respect to amended Claim 15.

Amended Claim 15 is directed to an image processing circuit of an image input device which performs a predetermined image processing of an image photographed by an image pickup device having a pixel array in the image input device. The circuit includes, in part, a real time processing unit, and a main memory disposed outside of the real time processing unit. The real time processing unit includes a defective pixel compensation block that includes a shift register with a plurality of registers connected in series, to which defective pixel addresses stored in the main memory are inputted sequentially and outputted sequentially.

As discussed during the interview, Kapan and Heller, whether taken individually or in combination, fail to teach or suggest each feature of amended independent Claim 15. For example, Kapan and Heller fail to teach or suggest detailed features of a defective pixel compensation block in a real time processing unit that includes the claimed features. Accordingly, as discussed during the interview, Heller and Kapan fail to teach or suggest any defective pixel compensation block that "comprises a shift register with a plurality of registers connected in series, to which defective pixel addresses stored in said main memory are inputted sequentially and outputted sequentially," as recited in independent Claim 15.

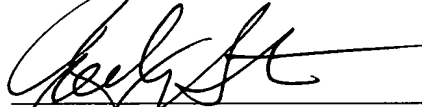
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claim 15 patentably defines over Kapan and Heller.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that independent Claims 15 and 28, and claims depending therefrom, are allowable.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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